

T H E COMMONS COMPLAINT.

WHEREIN IS CONTAINED
TWO SPECIAL
GRIEVANCES.

The first, the generall destruction and waste of Woods in this Kingdome, with a remedie for the same: Also how to plant Wood according to the nature of euery soile, without losse of ground, and how thereby many more, and better Castell may be yearly bred, with the charge and profit that yearly may arise thereby.

The second grievance is, the extreame dearth of Victualls.

Four remedies for the same.

- 1 By a generall planting of Fruit-trees, with the charge and profit.
- 2 By an extraordinary breeding of Fowle and Pullen in places convenient, by a Plot herein set downe for the purpose, with the charge and profit:
- 3 By a generall destroying of all kinde of Vermin, with a neare estimation what is yearly deuoured and destroyed by them, and how the most of them in short time may be destroyed with a small charge.
- 4 Prowing the abundance of Corne that is yearly deuoured and destroyed by the infinite number of Pidgeons, kept and maintained in this Kingdome.

Newly corrected and augmented.

L O N D O N,
Printed by William Stansby. 1612.

COMMODORE

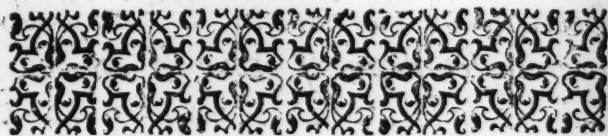
COMPANY

ARTILLERY

THE REGIMENTAL ARTILLERY
OF THE ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA

THE REGIMENTAL ARTILLERY
OF THE ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA

4



To the Kings most excellent
MAIESTIE.

NExt vnto God, most
dread Soueraigne, the
loue and dutie that I owe
vnto your Maiestie and
Kingdome, hath imbold-
ned me to Dedicate the fruits of my old
age and trauell vnto your Highnesse,
hoping that the subiect thereof will no
way offend you : since it is intended to
the good of your Maiestie and your
Royall Progenie, the generall good of
the Common-wealth for all posteritie;
and in part tendeth to your Princely
B speech

The Epistle Dedicatory.

*speech to the Parliament. What I shall
heerein set downe I proue by the best
Schoolemaster, which is, my long expe-
rience, hauing spent many yeares in
the attaining thereunto, especially these
foure last yeares, wherein I haue im-
ployed my studie and trauell through
some partes of most of the Countries of
this Kingdome for this purpose, oft ha-
uing conference with many of the best
Commonwealthes-men for my better
vnderstanding; desiring by all good
meanes to attaine to a perfect knowledge
how to plant, preserue, and maintaine
the blessings of God, as well in this our
destroying age, as they haue beene in for-
mer times, wherein was left a precedent
and plentie of that which is now in ef-
fect destroyed. All are giuen to take
the profit present, but few or none at all
regard*

The Epistle Dedicatory.

regard the posteritie or future times. This exercise in all ages hath beene in high account with the wisest and most worthiest, and hath beene blessed by God himselfe, (as hath appeared to the world:) and by the approbation of your Maiestie, may be so put in execution, as the branches thereof may be spread ouer all your Dominions, to the disburdening of your louing Subiectes of their greatest grieuances present and to come. I spare to proceede any further, since your Maiestie, whom God hath filled with the spirit of wisdom in vnderstanding, by your readie apprehension vnderstandeth much more then I can speake heereof. Thus submitting my poore labours, or rather worthlesse mite, to the consideration of your Royall Maiestie, hauing nothing else to present

B 2

sent

The Epistle Dedicatorie.

*sent the same withall, but my humble
prayers to the King of Kings, to mul-
tiply the giftes of his holy Spirit
more and more vpon you, and
that you may Reigne ma-
ny happy yeares a-
mongst vs.*

Your Highnesse most

humble Subiect,

ARTHVR STANDISH.



To the Reader.

THou hast here, gentle Reader, brought home vnto thee not onely the harvest of my long experience, but also the opinion of many hundreds that I haue conuerſed withall, who haue beene eyther the actors of ſome of theſe proiects herein contained, or the eye-witneſſes thereof, with little labour or coſt vnto thy ſelfe: wherein thou mayeſt plainly, according to the nature of euery Soile, learne how to plant ſuch profits as naturally our Countrey hath, and will afford for the profit of thy ſelfe and country. Firſt how to plant wood, and how to breed Cattell to a greate number, yearly to thy great gaine, as ſhall plainly be proued. In the ſecond, the profit of planting Fruit-trees in Hedges or Orchards, as of Apples, Wardens, Peares, VValnut and Cheſnut trees; being no ſtrange nouelties, although by want of
B 3 indutrie

To the Reader.

industry they are made strange vnto vs, by our buying them from forraine Countries at a deare rate, by our sloath and negligence; whereas by the blessing of God, the very soile of our hedges is such, as they would yeeld great plentie, without hindering any other profit, and may be gained with lesse cost and labour, then any other commoditie in this kingdome whatsoeuer, as shall herein be proued. In the third, the manner how to breede Fowle and Pullen, by a secure plot from stealing, and from vermine. Lastly, how by a speedie meanes to destroy all kind of Vermine, especially the feathered kinde, with a neere estimation what is yearely destroyed by Vermine and Pigeons, both in Corne and other things. By meanes thereof, not only Corne, but especially other victuals is brought, and doth continue at too deare a rate, for the poore Artificer and labouring man; by which dearth, too oft ariseth discontentments, and mutinies among the common sort, as appeared of late by a grieuance taken onely for the dearth of Corne in VVarwicke-shire, Northampton-shire, and other

To the Reader.

other places, about which time the mindes of many were molested: whereupon I tooke the first occasion to imploy my studie and travell in this busines, hoping by Gods helpe to preuent such inconueniences, as too oft doe spring out of the desperate tree of want. VVhereupon, good Reader, it insueth, that by the obseruing of these small directions, thou maiest perform some part of the cause of thy creation, by giuing glory to thy Creator, honour, pleasure, and profit to thy king, country, and to thy selfe also, by feeling and relieuing thy Christian brothers wants, and by a charitable industrie, thou maiest raise meanes to disburden them of their greatest griuances, and in the end, by the mercy of our good God, thou maiest be partaker of his louing promises in the Gospell, *Come yee blessed of my Father, &c.* The which I craue for Iesus Christ his sake.

Vpon



Vpon the Author and his most commendable and necessarie worke.

FOr me thy paines and subiect to commend
(Each praising each by their dumbe silence best)
were Candle-light vnto the Sunne to lend,
Send Owles to Athens, paint the Phœnix brest;
Giue Flora garlands, Loue his Myrtle bow,
Arabia odours, pearle to Thetis brow.

But lo! the Genius of faire Brittain by,
Commands me speake, to giue thee thy desert,
Who art so carefull of posteritie,
And present times vnru'd of greater part:
Swearing by Thames her hopes are more by Standish
Then all the gold she got by Drake or Candish.

Henry Peacham.



THE COMMONS COMPLAINT.



Ec doe in all humbleness comaine vn-
to your Maiesty of the generall destruc-
tion and waste of wood made within this
your Kingdome; more within twentie or
thirtie last yeares, then in any hundred

yeares before. Little respect is taken but by your Ma-
iestie, for the posteritie and prosperitie of your King-
dome; too many destroyers, but few or none at all
doth plant or preferue: by reason thereof, there is not
Timber left in this Kingdome at this instant onely to
repaire the buildings thereof another age, much lesse to
build withall: whereby this grievance doth daily in-
crease. The reasons are many: first, the want of fire is
expected, without the which mans life cannot bee pre-
served: secondly, the want of Timber, Brick, Tyle, Lime,
Iron, Lead and glasse, for the building of habitations;
Timber for the maintaining of husbandrie, for naviga-
tion, for vessels, for bruving and the keeping of drinke,
and all other necessities for housekeeping: barke for
the tanning of Leather, bridges for trauell, pales for
Parkes,

2 *The Commons complaint.*

Parkes, poles for hops, and salt from the Wiches. The want of wood is, and will bee a great decay to tillage, and cannot but bee the greatest cause of the dearth of corne, and hindreth greatly the yearely breeding of many cattell, by reason that much straw is yearely burned, that to the breeding of cattell might be employed: the want of wood in many places of this Kingdome, constrayneth the foyle of cattell to bee burned, which should bee employed to the strengthening of land, and so doth the want of hurdles for the folding of sheepe; and the want of wood causeth too many great losses by fire, that commeth by the burning of straw. And so it may be conceiued, no wood, no Kingdome.

The remedies may be thus.

IF that all owners of land, according to the nature of the soile wherein their lands doe lie, were enioyned to plant all their hedges with wood, (and not only with thornes as too many doe,) imagining that wood will hinder the growth of their thornes, and so hinder the strength of their fence; which is not so, if the wood and the thornes be planted together, as may well appeare to those that marke it well; which if it should, I hope it will bee granted, and shall hereby appeare, that there is no comparison to be made between the profit of wood and thornes) so thicke as conueniently trees may grow and prosper, which may be two at the least in euery poll, to bee topped and lopped for fire wood; reseruing some part of their hedges to plant fruit-trees in, as Apples, Wardens, Peares, Wal-nut or Ches-nut-trees, which may yeeld no lesse profit: for the

The Commons complaint.

3

the Timber of the Wal-nut-tree is for many vles very good and profitable, and the Ches-nut-tree is very lasting Timber, as appeareth by foure principall posts in the hall at Farnam Castle, which is said, was builded before, or in the time that King *Arthur* raigned in this Kingdome. The Walnut would be set about Michellmas, when the greene coate is on it; and the Wal-nuts must be steeped three dayes and nights in milke before it be set, and watered the first two Sommers, if they be drie: and further to plant foure trees for euery acre, to be preserued for Timber, for so many yeares before any of them should be felled; as the trees may be growne to be good Timber, which may bee fourescore yeares: and that after the trees be growne to bee Timber, that none should bee felled, or at any time before or after wasted, but so many to be planted and continued, (as it is said the King of Spaine hath enacted, for the better continuance of the Iron works in his Dominions) and further that al such persons as haue at this instant their grounds furnished with wood in such sort as is required, might be also inioyned to continue the same, and to preserue so many Timber trees, and so many for fire wood, as hereafter they may sell or waste. And that all Tenants might bee inioyned to doe the like, and so haue sufficient Timber for al vles belonging to his Tenement, and sufficient fire-wood for all purposes belonging to his house, or bettring of his Lands by burning of Lime, or what else, making no waste, for there better encouragement, in lieu of their charg & paines. This being performed, it shall appeare to bee the best proiekt that hath beene offered in our age, as the case standeth with the Kingdom, by the scarcitie of Timber

4 *The Commons complaint.*

that it is like to grow vnto, considering that it may be performed with so small a charge, and continued with so little labour. And for the better conceiuing thereof, admit that a man haue onely fourescore acres in his occupation of pasture ground, wherein he yearely feedeth or breedeth twentie cattell, or keepeth twentie milch-kine; and that hee should for this purpose inclose foure roodes (which is an acre) in foure seuerall corners of the fourescore acres; the which corners are already inclosed for the fences of the same closes, and is so to bee maintained notwithstanding this deuice, so the rest that is to bee done, is but tenne poll in length, and foure in bredth: the which foureteen poll for one roode may cost to bee well ditched, and double quick-set, eight pence a poll, nine shillings foure pence: a hedge on the outside to saue the quick wood six pence a poll, which will last well three yeares, and then to bee hedged a new, that may cost other six pence a poll, foureteene shillings. In the Sommers before these roodes of ground are to bee inclosed, there must be digged fourescore seuerall plots in euery roode of a yard square, three yardes lacking three inches betweene plot and plot euery way, which is to be digged ouer three seuerall times, a moneth or six weekes betweene euery time, the last to bee about Al-hollantide, when the mast of Oake, Beech, or the chafts or keyes (as some termethem) of Ashe is ripe, and that the sap of Elmes be returned to the root: then set in euery of the said square yardes, nine Acornes, or Beech mast, or the litle roots of Elme, a foot between euery of them, and more of the chafts of Ashe, or of the rest not about three fingers deepe: the digging thereof three times ouer, and the setting cannot cost about
four

The Commons complaint.

5

four shillings. These being set, they must be weeded the first two yeares, twice in either Sommer, which may cost at euery time twelue pence, four shillings: the Weeders not to come among the plants, but on the out side for treading on the plants: then after two or three yeares, in September, when the sappe is in the roots, al the yong plants that grow may be taken vp to bee planted in the hedges of the same close, reseruing onely two in euery plot so set of the best like to bee trees: then after six yeares when it may bee perceiued which of those two so left is like to be the best tree, take away the worst, and plant it also in the hedges as afore-said, and leaue onely one being the best; the remouing of these plants may cost two shillings. The quick-wood for the fence to make a good fence would be cut hard by the ground vpward with a knife for loosning the roots, when it hath stood two yeares: and so will the plants of wood being so cut and weeded, which may cost two shillings. The quicke wood being thus cut and weeded will grow more in one yeare then it could being vncut in three; so that in the fourth yeare after it is cut, it will be so thicke and so high, as no reasonable cattle can get through or ouer it. Thus the whole charge of a roode cannot be aboue thirtie fine shillings eight pence: admit it were fortie shillings, it were not great in regard of the profit that will appeare to arise thereby. In the meane time, till the yong plants in the roode of ground bee growne vp, past the taking hurt by cattell, which may be ten yeares, three parts of the ground may bee mowed betweene the plants; so that small losse may bee taken by the ground so inclosed, or after three or foure yeare it may bee eaten with

C 3

sheepe:

sheepe: and then when the wood is growne vp past raking hurt by cattell, a way or two would bee made into the said roode, that the cattell of the said close may goe in and out at pleasure.

The charge thus being set downe at the most, it followeth, to shew the profit that may arise thereby to the performer: first the fourescore trees growing in one roode, till they be threescore yeares old, may well bee worth at fifteene shillings a tree, threescore pounds, which fourescore trees groweth after twentie shillings a yeare, and so the rest: for by that time it may be well supposed that a small tree may bee worth fifteene shillings: the trees planted in the other three roods, may be much better, by reason that one other roode groweth to bee fourescore yeares before they bee felled, one other fuescore, and the last sixscore, whereby they may be well worth the rate set downe. In the hedges about twentie acres, there may bee planted at the least foure hundred plants out of euery roode, wherof if two hundred and fiftie doe but grow, which they wil doe much the better, if they bee cut when they haue taken roote two yeares, as before is set downe for the quick-woods, being saued from hurt by the thornes or other wood that groweth in the hedge, or by some other meanes, that in discretion may be vsed, wil so grow as they may be topped at sixteene yeares growth, and againe foure yeares after, thereby to saue them from the force of the wind, which if the tops bee too great when they are yong, they may bee shaken loose at the root by the wind, and so die. After which time euery tenne yeares they may bee lopped for fire wood, so long as they are maintained, which lop cannot be lesse worth then sixpence

The Commons complaint. 7

pence a tree, and every two trees cannot belesse then a load worth twelue pence. The number of the trees about the fourescore acres, may bee a thousand at the least, which ariseth at the rate set downe to five and twentie pound every ten yeares: which wood groweth after fiftie shillings a yeare. The mast that may yearly grow of the thousand trees in the hedges, and of three hundred & twentie in the foure roods, may very well be worth one yeare with another, and one tree with another, a pennie a tree, and may be well rated to be worth yearly five pound: the rather in regard that in plentifull yeares of mast, there may of them bee gathered, which being dried of a Kylene, may bee kept as Pease and Beanes two or three yeares, to feed Hogs, and the mast of Beech will feed cattell and pullen, as may appeare by Deere and pullen kept in Parkes, especially Turkeyes.

Thus it appeareth to al men that there may be yearly raised in Timber, fire-wood and mast, out of fourescore acres eight pound ten shillings. If the fourescore acres be pasture, it may be further improved: first, the fourescore cattell that is to be sommered in fourescore acres, they will be bettered at the least two shilling in a beast yearly by their quiet being in the woods, keeping their flesh, that other wayes would be lost, being constrained by the extreme heat of the Sunne and flies for want of shadow; to runne vp and downe the grounds; and oft breaking out into corne, where they may doe much hurt, and also running into the water, which if it be a standing pond, and not a running water, they soile the water, as when they would drinke they cannot;

not; the want thereof oft times breedes diseases among cattell; and further may be saued at the least tenne pounds a yeare by the grasse that before was spoiled by the cattels running and foyling thereof. And thus much all breeders and feeders will affirme, and so will huswifes of their dairies, and by the shadow of the wood, and the clearenesse of the water, the cattell may drinke at will, by which meanes a better breed of cattell may bee made. For those countries that want shadow or water, can neuer breed faire cattell, as may appeare by those countries that haue farre better ground then Lankashire, and yet cannot breed so good cattell. Thus all things being reasonably rated, it appeareth, that by this manner of planting, the fourescore acres are improued eightene pound tenne shillings a yeare to the particular planters: if there were but halfe so much profit it were sufficient to induce all men to the planting of wood.

As for the generall good that may grow thereby to the Kingdome, all the wants recited in the first page may be so supplied, as all such necessities may bee had plentifully at a reasonable rate, great losses that may come by burning of straw preuented, many more cattell in Countries where they burne much straw for want of wood may bee yearely bred, the soile of them, and much more that is burned in many countries for want of wood, may bee employed to the manuring of ground, and great store of Lime in countries where Limestone is may bee burned, whereby much more corne may bee yearely got, by the Mast much corne may bee yearely saued, the Coales neare
the

The Commons complaint. 9

the coasts may bee transported : and the whole Kingdome heareby may bee preferued from the ruine that is greatly feared,

If the aforesaid directions shall seeme to bee chargeable to any, I haue added hereunto some others more agreeable to the time, acceptable to all men, and in the opinion of most men so necessarie, as they are holden not worthie to bee the owners of Grounds, that will not obserue them ; in regard that experience hath taught all men to know, that in all ages, Bushe hath bene, and will be (it they be preferued) in al Grounds, the very nurse of trees : so that all men may take notice hereby, that by the digging vp of a foote square of Ground in the midst of any Tuft of Bushes, Briers, Gorffe, Whinnes, Hollinnes, or Furies, as some rearme them, and therein to set three of the Mast of Oake, Beech, or the cut boughes of Willow, or Elme, according to the directions set downe in the tenth page ; or the Keyes of Ashe, according to the nature of the soyles : out of which three, it is not to be doubted, but one of them at the least will grow and prosper ; if the Bushes be preferued till the Plants bee past taking hurt by Cattle. The like may bee obserued vnder euery lone Bush, the Bush being so high growen as the Boughes thereof may be plashed to hang downe, so as they may defend the Plant.

The like Planting may bee vsed in the bottome of euery Quicke hedge, where they may bee defended by the Thornes therein growing. The profit that may arise thereby, is extant in many Countries, especially in Essex, which although there be generally greater store of Wood in that Countie, then in any other Countie

D

of

of this Realme, they find such profit by their Lop-wood in their hedges, are there the owners of Ground doe more nourish and preserue the Woodes growing in their Hedges, then Northampton, Leicester, Rutland, and other Countries doe : in which Countries, there is greatest want of Timber and fire-wood generally, then in any Countries of this Kingdome : Yet notwithstanding in those Countries and other Countries, where the planting of Wood is more then needfull to be planted, they altogether inclose and take in whole Parishes by a Fence of Thornes with little or no Wood at all therein; to the great hindrance and losse of the Common-wealth : Whereas with lesse charge, labour and cost, they may raise a better Fence that will last and continue longer without further charge, that will yeeld greater profit by many degrees, by setting in the top of the banke of ditches when they doe inclose, either Acorns, Beech-mast, Chestnuts, Keyes of Ashe, or by setting the yong roots of Elme, that may bee taken from the roote of an olde Elme, being barred about alho!lantide when the sap is in the roots of trees: From which Elme there may bee taken many small rootes, that being set as other wood, will by experience grow more speedily then thornes or any other wood, all which would bee set or planted halfe a foot one from another; so as if they grow too thicke, some may be drawne vp and planted elsewhere, and so will the cut boughes of Elme, Willow, or the chop of a Elme with the barke on it, growe, if it haue a knot whereon groweth a sprig, being laid in the banke of an new ditch, or in trenches, according to the directions in the tenth page. These being well
fenced

The Commons complaint.

II

fenced from taking hurt by cattell, will in foure, or five yeares, be growne so high, as they may be bended downe and laied as a plashed hedge, but at no hand cut at the bottome as is the plashed hedge. The reason is, the old wood in the hedge is growne stiffe so as it will not bend to lie without cutting, which these young plants will easily doe, so as they may bee bound by yethering to grow as doth the plashed hedge, and staked as a dead hedge, which stakes and yethers may be taken away after three yeares : for being laied and bound downe so young in three yeares they will naturally grow so, as doth the plashed hedge, and much the better if they be growne so high before they be laid as cartell may in no wise bite the tops nor the sides the first yeare. This kind of fencing will in all reason, and common experience, in short time grow stronger then any pale : for the planters being thus laied they will grow so great as they will touch one another, and so thicke, and strong by the boughes that will grow out of them, that although after the first yeare they bee bitten by cartell, a man shall hardly see through the fence, especially in Sommer. And being topped every renne yeares the trees cannot yeeld lesse then a load of lopwood in every poll. The boughes thereof in Winter will greatly releue cartell and saue fother, and being wooddie that will yeeld Mast; the Mast wilbe beneficiall as hath beene proued. The experience of this kind of planting euery man may take that will obserue it, as hee rideth or walketh ; especially in Woodland Countries, where is to be seene in many places as much wood as thornes plashed and laied in hedges, which by lying long is growne so great as one doth touch another,

ther, and the Fence so strong as no cattell wilbe able to get ouer, or through it, by this kind of planting of Wood, about Parkes, all Parkes with a small charge, more then the maintaining of the pale, ten or twelue yeares at the furthest, may bee more strongly fenced then with any pale without any further yearly charge, which will yearely yeelde profit by the browse for Deare with fire wood and Mast. And to prooue how Wood may bee increased in Forrestes, Chases, Parkes, Commons, or any bushie or gorsie grounds: Experience will teach all men that will obserue it; that in all such groundes bushes hath, doth, and will bee, if they be preferred, the very nurles of trees, and further that if in allchampaigne Countries where land is barren, and suell so scant as they are constrained to burne their straw, and manure (which is to bee imployed as before) to the vtter vndoing of many a Husbandman, who tilleth much land, soweth much seed, and reapeth with losse, for want of manure by reason of the aforesaid meanes: if therefore I say, not onely of my selfe, but also in the opinion of many inhabiting in such Countries, some part of their barest grounds that lieth so farre from the Towne whereunto it doth belong, that sildome or neuer it is manured, by reason whereof it oft lieth lay, and yeeldeth no profit, there were planted with wood in rowes some part of that barren land according to the direction before for gorsie grounds, or in the direction for sheepe walkes, and commons, great good might arise thereby to the particular owners and Common-wealth, as partly is proued. And more easily may be conceiued, and by too much expetience it is generally approued by many, that

that there is no one cause whatsoever that hath beene, is, and will be, if it be not speedily prevented, so great a cause of the dearth of corne, and other kind of victualls as the want of Wood: a late experience thereof may be taken from the year one thousand six hundred and eleaven, by the Mast that the small quantitie of wood yeelded that year, which Mast fed so many Hogges as greatly caled the prices of corne that year, and other victualls.

And by a like planting in all Gorse grounds where Gorse groweth so naturally, as the owner thereof can in no wise destroy it, great plentie of Timber and firewood may be raised, and the soile improved, especially if the wood bee planted in Rowes, tenne yardes betweene every Row, and in every Row fourtie four trees, so as there may bee five yardes betweene every plant one way, and tenne the other. The number of the Trees that may bee thus planted about the sides of of any Ground, and in the Rowes, may bee a hundred for every Acre, to be lopped for fire-wood, and four for Timber, which four would be shred yearly with a knife and Bill, and being yearly so shred whilest they bee young the barke will grow and couer the knot so cut as when the tree is to bee used no knot wil be seene therein, a man may shred two hundred on a day. Then after the Trees bee growen vp past the taking hurt by cattell, the Gorse may bee stocked vp, the ground betweene the Rowes may bee ploughed and sown with Corne; and being Lymed, the Lime together with the shadow of the Trees will approuedly so destroy the Gorse, as the ground wil bee recovered to

be good pasture. And in like sort, all Broomie ground may be improved.

Some to this, hath obiected; That if their Grosse were thus destroyed, they would be indemnified thereby, in regard they haue no better fuell. To which I haue answered; and giuen good satisfaction: that it is not intended that the Grosse should bee destroyed before the Wood be so growen vp, as it may yeeld better fuell, and better store. Other say, that they haue set much Mast, and Kernels of Apples, and other seedes, which neuer came to prooffe; by reason that they were deuoured by Mice. The remedie to prevent the same from Mice Hogges, and other Vermine, is to dippe them in Tarre before they bee set; the sent thereof will preferue them. This kind of Planting may be effected with so small a charge, and maintained with so little labour, as not any man that either regardeth the content of their King, the good of their owne posteritie, or Common wealth, can in reason omit to obserue.

OBJECTIONS.

IT is obiected I know by many, that it is against a mans profit to preferue his woods, since they grow but after three shillings foure pence an acre yearly; when as the ground being conuerted to pasture, is worth tenne shillings an acre yearly: further it is said by diuers, that in wood countries they haue wood enough for them and their heires, as well for building as burning, let them plant wood that need it: moreouer it cannot (say they) be easily conceiued how wood can be planted, in respect of the difference of soiles, or how plants enow may bee gotten to plant the Kingdome

The Commons complaint. 15

dome withall, or how any such profit may bee likely to arise : lastly , that there is Sea-coales enow to supply many wants thereof.

THE ANSWER.

THE Objections touching wood are true in part as may appeare to all men , for that so great a spoile and wast is made thereof, whereby the Kingdome is in danger to be ruinated thereby if some prouision bee not speedily prouided, but not in the whole, as would appeare, if a suruay were taken of the Timber now growing in this Kingdome : for it would bee found too true that the fourth part hath not Timber to maintaine and repaire the building thereof threescore yeares, although no part thereof should bee employed for new buildings. As touching the difference of soiles, such as are ignorant therein, may hereby know that wood hath and will grow in the most part of all this Kingdome, being planted and preserued , as it ought, as first appeareth by the Peake Countrie of Darbshire and other rockie Countries, where there is yet to bee seene Ashe-wood growing about euery Towne, and would be more in other places if it were planted and preserued. As for Oake, Beech Elme, and Ashe, it will grow in flintie and grauelly ground, as appeareth by the Chiltren Countrie, as it is termed of many shires. Elme specially will grow best in grauelly ground, as appeareth euery way about London. And for fennish grounds it appeareth about the townes in those Countries, that there is and hath beene better store and would be, as well as hath beene,
if

if it were planted, of Elme and Willow. The best manner of planting Elme and Willow is to loppe young boughes of three or foure yeares growth in the latter end of March, or the beginning of Aprill, before the buds put forth, being lopped presently, cut the boughs into lengths of a foot long, being sure to leaue the knot where the bude is to put forth in the middest, cut the boughes sloping Coult-footelike, then lay the short boughes in trenches where you would haue them to grow a yard one from another, not aboue a hand breadth deep, and couer them with good mould, being sure to lay the knot vpward, and not at all to couer it, and treade the mould fast to them: if the first and second Sommer bee drie, then water them well twise a weeke at the least, and assuredly they will so grow, that as of other wood, so of Willow or Elme you may haue shadow in some corner of a close for cattell, and great plentie of wood with lesse charge then other wood, for onely a good ditch will serue in such grounds as Willow may best be planted in, as for Elme it must bee planted in harder ground, if they grow too thicke, as vndoubtedly they will. Some may bee so cut vp, as the cattell may haue good roome to lie, and goe betweene the trees: the Elme will grow to Timber if it be not lopped. This kind of planting will sooner grow to bee trees then boughes cut and set: another kind of planting of the boughes of any trees about Lammas, before the sap returne toward the roots of trees, is with a knife to pare the barke of a bough a hand broad, hard at the bodie of the tree, so cleane from the bough, as the sap may not return to the bodie, and a hand bredth next to the plot so pared, lay to a good quantitie of clay

clay two inches thicke, and a shaftment broad at the least, and within the clay next to the barke to lay a little better earth, being sure to bind the clay fast about the bough, so as when the bough is to be cut off with a saw from the tree, which must bee about the midst of September, at which time the bough must be sawne off hard by the earth, in which earth the sap wil haue taken such roote, that if it bee presently set with the earth about it, the top being a little cut off, will more assuredly grow to be trees for lop wood then any other kind of setting sets: by which meanes such fennes may haue Timber, firewood, and shadow and shelter for cattell, and so will the boughes of Apple, or Peare trees, and oft times beare the first yeare: provided that the boughs be of the tallest and straightest. And as for Sea-coales, there is no assurance how long they may endure: it is apparant that Coale-mines doe decay too fast in most Countries, and are too chargeable for many Countries, in respect of carriage, and in most mines, they are not to be got without the vse of much wood.

What further benefit may be made on sheepe walkes, Downes or Heathes; by planting of wood where the grounds are barren.

IF for example on euery Sheepe-walke whereon there is, or may be kept five hundred sheepe, there were plowed vp about Christmas twentie acres in the lowest bottome of the walke for this purpose, where water may bee kept all the yeare, as well for the breeding of Fowle as for the other profits: all which may be maintained vnder one charge by the shepheard

E

without,

18. *The Commons complaint:*

without, as it were a peece of corne, fencing of the same: (for that on such Downes cattell seldome times come.) Being sowed, let it lie vntill Midfomer: if then it be perceiued that there will bee Mast that yeare, then plough it againe, and then let it lie vntill about Hallowmas: Then take the Mast of Oke, Beech, or keyes of Ashe, bruised Crabs, after the veriuice is pressed out, and hawes: mingle these together to sow about the sides and ends of the ground about a yard broad, and vpon the rest sow no Hawes, but some few kernels of Crabs with the Mast. Thus being sowne, plough the ground vp into a little ridge, and plough vnder this Mast and Chats very shallow, then leaue ten yardes in breadth, and sow and plough one yard more, and so from side to side. The rest of the headlands to lie till the rest of the close is to bee sowne in March with Ores, that the cattel may not hurt the Mast sowne by treading on it.

The close being thus sowne with Mast and Oates, in the meane time whilest the ground is in tilling, there would bee a house builded for the Shepheard to dwell in, where hee may best ouer-see the ground at his ease. The charge thereof, first of the house five pound: the plowing thrise and the harrowing, two shillings eight pence an acre; eight pound the Mast; and getting it ready, twentie shilling; for eight quarters of Oates to sow the ground foure pound; for the getting of Oates in haruest, and carrying of them into the barne forty shillings; and the straw will thrash them: so the whole charge is twentie pound. The Oates will yeeld thirtie pound, if they increase but sixe for one. Then when the spring is of two yeares growth, there may be drawn

The Commons complaint. 19

vp part of the spring, which may bee employed for quick-sets : and when the remainder is six yeares of growth, there may be more drawne vp to be set in the sides and ends, if they bee not so quicke as the owners would haue them, leauing them fourescore on either side, two in a poll, and in either end eightscore, in euery row foure and fortie, siue yardes betweene euery one, and here and there to leaue some speciall one that is like to be a fine tree for Timber, and some hundred or more of the Crab-tree stockes to graft on : and so leaue, as there may bee left at the least two thousand for to bee lopped for fire-wood; fourescore for Timber, and fourescore to graft on. The two thousand may be topped as before, which at euery eight yeares end may be lopped for fire-wood: the tops of them cannot bee so little worth after thirtie yeares, as sixepence a tree, which riseth to fiftie pound, the foure-score trees for Timber may after threescore yeares bee worth fortie pound at ten shillings a tree, the fruit that may grow of fourescore trees at six pence a tree, fortie shillings by the yeare; and the ground being before barren (hardly worth twelue pence an acre) may be worth ten shilling an acre by the yeare : for by the grasse and weedes that will grow the first fixe yeares, and the lodging of the sheepe in the night, when the weather is such as they cannot bee folded, and the shadow of the trees which are so to be planted, that there may bee ten yardes betweene euery tree, except in the rowes, the ground wil be made very good meadow and wil find the sheep hay enough with good winter pasture, and warme shelter in sharpe weather. And if water can be kept, there may be bred with twentie pound cost, fowle or pullen well

worth twentie nobles by the yeare, all charges borne. If the plot for fowle be neare corne, then may there be best kept wilde Duckes and Mallards, which doe neuer hurt corne in the field.

If the planting of wood were on common Sheep-walks, Common pastures, and Commons, where the lands are so good as they might be sown with Wheat or Rie, with the Mast; the whole charge thereof would be made in three yeares worth twentie pound gaine at the least, by the crop of Wheat or Rie, and a crop of Oates after betweene the grounds, where the Mast is sown, as before is set downe. If the like prouision were made in Parkes where wood decayeth, and hay is scant for Deere, it would be very beneficiall to the owners, and by the planting of Commons, common pastures, or common Sheep-walkes by the charges of the towne, whereunto such grounds do belong, the charge will be inned, as before is set downe, in three yeares, a present relief raised by fowle to the poore of the towne, of sixe pound thirteene shillings foure pence, and after tenne yeares. three pound sixe shillings eight pence at the least by fruit: fourescore trees to bee left for Timber, and two thousand trees remaining to bee lopped, which may yeeld wood worth fise pounds a yeare; by meanes whereof the townes (where such prouision may be best made) may not onely bee greatly eased of the charge of their poore, but also haue a stocke whereby they may bee eased of such charges as may happen either to Church or King by increase of the stocke. By this manner of planting wood a president may be taken by such as are desirous to improue their groundes, by stocking and stubbing vp their Woodes to make as
much

much profit of wood as now they doe, and haue the profite of the ground, eyther to plough for corne, or to mow for hay betweene the rowes of wood, or to pasture it at the pleasure of the owner. And further take certaine knowledge that all barren and mossie grounds may be improved much, by letting three yeares grasse rotte on the ground, and it is the onely way next vnto Lime to destroy Mosse. The second griuance is the dearth of victuals with remedie for the same.

Concerning victuals, the want there of is very great, in regard that all kinde of victuals is risen and growne more deere in price within these last six yeares, then in twentie yeares before : and if the dearth of victuals shall happen to increase but a few yeares to come (as by all likelihood it is like to doe) except some speedie remedie be provided, the poore man by his labours shall not get wherewith to relieue himselfe and family. This dearth may be much eased, if that euerie one that hath a Pigeon house might be enioyned, or otherwise required, to breed yearly extraordinary a certaine number of fowle and pullen, as shall seeme best to their liking. The manner and order shall be set downe. by a plot for the purpose, how they may bee bred with the charge and profite that may yearely arise to the owners.

The reasons whereof are five : first, in regard that a plot to breed fowle or pullen in, which may be made and furnished with lesse charges then a Pigeon house, yeeldeth more profit, and nothing at all offendeth the people, whereas the Pigeons are a great cause of dearth, and more chargeable than profitable to the owners

and the losse that the kingdome receiueth thereby is infinite, as at large shall be proued.

Secondly, that it is to be supposed that euery one that is able to build a Pigeon house, is also able to make a plot for fowle or pullen to breed in, and eyther is or should be the Lord of the Mannor, who hath to his Mannor some conuenient ground to make a plot on, for that purpose, and to breed so many pullen or fowle yearly as he keepeth Pigeons.

Thirdly, whereas a Pigeon house is builded for house-keeping, the breeding of pullen is more profitable, as shall be proued.

Fourthly, that the extreme dearth of victuals causeth many to breake vp house-keeping, and to put away their seruants, whereby many through want fall to stealing, and thereby come to an vntimely end: so an extraordinary breeding of fowle and pullen, with other meanes as followeth, may by Gods blessing so ease the extremity thereof, as men may, as their ancestorshauedone in former ages, delight in hospitality; hereby preventing many inconueniences, that the extremitie of dearth doth and may hereafter procure.

Fiftly and lastly, the profit of the fowle and pullen shall be proued to be such, as no man of vnderstanding will denie the performing thereof.

But now to proue the difference of the charge and profit betweene the Pigeon-house, and a plot for fowle and pullen: First, all men of experience know, that an ordinary Pigeon-house of five yards and a halfe square, and foure yards high to the cuesings, in which house there may be contained twelue score paire of Pigeons, will cost five and twenty pound at the least, and that

that it will be three yeares before it commeth to the best profit; and when it commeth to that, the best Pigeon-house is seldome worth five pounds yearly, except it be within threescore miles of London, where all victuals are dearer then in other places of the kingdom, or a double house. I will not stand to make good the opinion of the multitude concerning the charge of one Pigeon, who will eate (if she haue liberty) a quarter of corne a yere (I haue some reason to beleue it, for that two credible persons did affirme vnto me, that they had lately seene halfe a pinte of corne at one time taken out of an old Pigeons croppe, and offered to make prooffe thereof by witnesses of good credite;) but we must admit of that which in common experience is not to be denied, which is, that Pigeons haue corne at will to feed on more then halfe the yere: and admit there betwelve score paire in a house of old Pigeons, as commonly there is, and that euery old Pigeon in that time with her young ones should eate but two bushels, which commeth to sixe score quarters at a house: and it is generally holden that they hinder the increase of that which would grow, and spoile as much as they eat, from the time that corne groweth ripe in the field, before haruest be done, and the seed times. And thus in reason it doth appeare, that in all seed times of the yere there is at the least sixteene weekes, in which time she gathereth vp much corne, that is left vncouered by the harrowes, which a shower of raine would couer, and so would grow: and naturally all Pease and Beanes, if they fall not deepe in sowing, and be very wel couered, they will swell out of the ground, and lie bare vpon the ground; and yet notwithstanding Pease and Beanes,
and

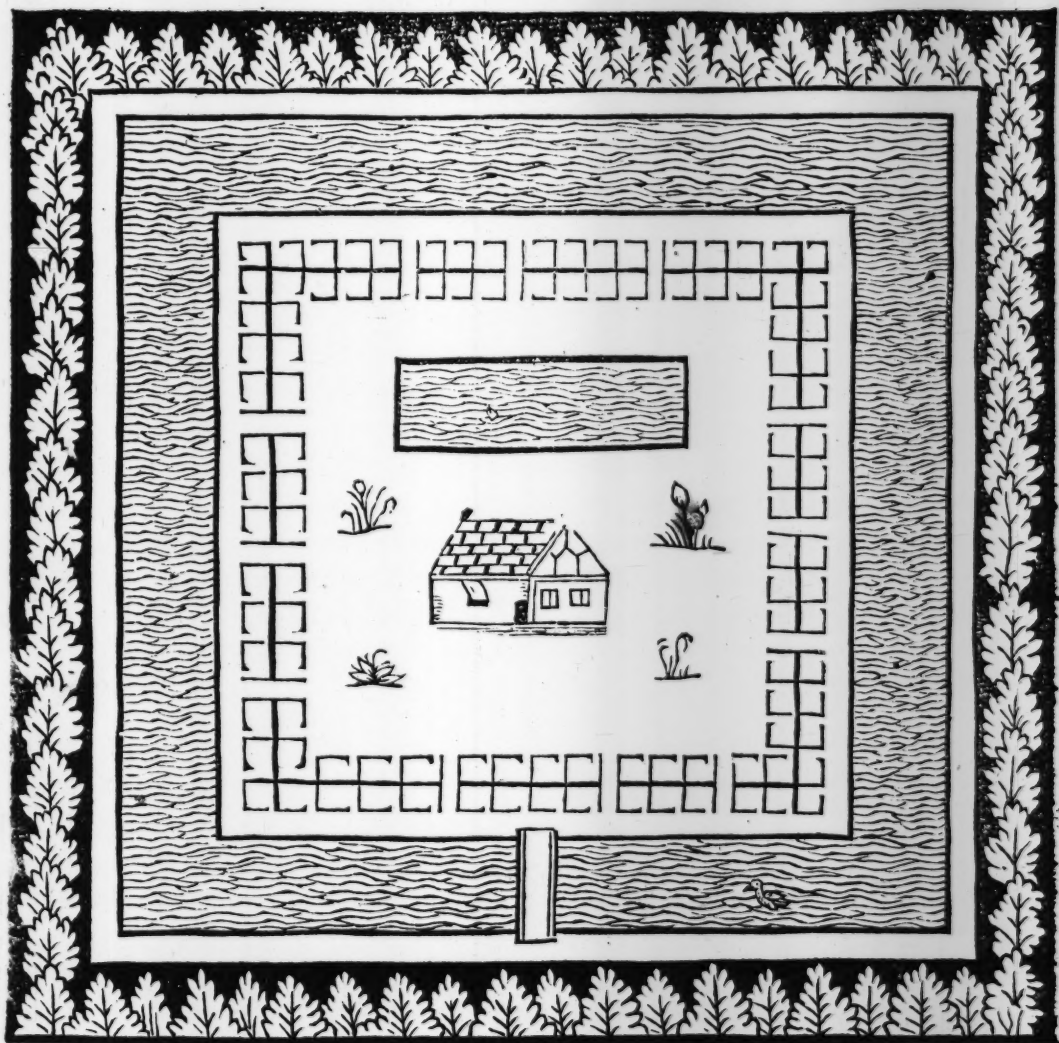
and all other corne by nature groweth with the roore first into the ground, and then springeth vpwards: so that after the seed times be done, and the corne groweth greene, till it grow so high that the Pigeons cannot go through it, they gather vp the corne growing, and breake off the blades, and eate the corne: all which will be confidently proued by all Husbandmen and Gentlemen, especially by such as sometimes addict their minds to vnderstand the profit of husbandry.

This being allowed (which by no meanes can be disproued) it appeareth that twelue score paire of Pigeons deuoure, destroy and hinder the increase of twelue score quarters of corne in a yeare. Admit it were but halfe so much, and that the corne were rated, being Wheate, Rie, Barley and Pease, but at two shillings and a penie the bushell, sixe score quarters cometh to a hundred pound yearly at a house. Admit further, that the sixth part thereof be the owners of the Pigeon house (so it is to be supposed that the Lord of the Manor hath a sixth part of the towne) then it followeth that his siue pounds-worth of Pigeons costeth him sixteene pound thirteene shillings and eight pence at the least. What other charge his Pigeons are vnto him, I forbear to relate: the number of the Pigeon houses cannot be fewer then fortie thousand, with the Pigeons kept at houses. Now to the charge and profit of fowle and pullen: the plot and all things thereunto belonging, will not cost about twenty pound, to haue it conuenient and readie, that when occasion is to take some of the wild kinde, the taking of those may not offend the rest that remaine behinde. The plot must be especially for the wilde kinde of Ducke and Mallard

and all other corne by nature groweth with the roote first into the ground, and then springeth vpwards: so that after the seed times be done, and the corne groweth greene, till it grow so high that the Pigeons cannot go through it, they gather vp the corne growing, and breake off the blades, and eate the corne: all which will be confidently proued by all Husbandmen and Gentlemen, especially by such as sometimes addiect their minds to vnderstand the profit of husbandry.

This being allowed (which by no meanes can be disproued) it appeareth that twelue score paire of Pigeons deuoure, destroy and hinder the increafe of twelue score quarters of corne in a yeare. Admit it were but halfe so much, and that the corne were rated, being Wheat, Rie, Barley and Pease, but at two shillings and a penie the bushell, sixe score quarters cometh to a hundred pound yearly at a house. Admit further, that the sixth part thereof be the owners of the Pigeon house (so it is to be supposed that the Lord of the Manor hath a sixth part of the towne) then it followeth that his fise pounds-worth of Pigeons costeth him sixteene pound thirteene shillings and eight pence at the least. What other charge his Pigeons are vnto him, I forbear to relate: the number of the Pigeon houses cannot be fewer then fortie thousand, with the Pigeons kept at houses. Now to the charge and profite of fowle and pullen: the plot and all things thereunto belonging, will not cost about twenty pound, to haue it conuenient and readie, that when occasion is to take some of the wild kinde, the taking of those may not offend the rest that remaine behinde. The plot must be especially for the walde kinde of Ducke and Mallard

The Figure of the Plot.



IN the casting of the Mote, the best earth must bee cast into the Plot, to raise it so, as the House may stand three or foure yards higher then the sides to the Moteward, that the water may descend; and for pleasure there may be some kind of Quick-wood set about it, whereby it may be kept Fort-like. The borders for pleasure may be set with Prael, wheron many conceits may be fashioned, seeming as though the Fowle bred vnder them; but for profit with Goose-berry sets, which wil put forth and be greene timely in the ye are to shadow the Nests. The passages betweene the Nests, would be a yard broad at the least and

things and a penny the barren, the more quarters com-
meth to a hundred pound yearly at a house. Admit
further, that the sixth part thereof be the owners of the
Pigeon house (so it is to be supposed that the Lord of
the Manor hath a sixth part of the towne) then it fol-
loweth that his five pounds-worth of Pigeons costeth
him sixteene pound thirteene shillings and eight pence
at the least. What other charge his Pigeons are vnto
him, I forbear to relate : the number of the Pigeon
houses cannot be fewer then fortie thousand, with the
Pigeons kept at houses. Now to the charge and pro-
fite of fowle and pullen : the plot and all things there-
unto belonging, will not cost about twenty pound, to
haue it conuenient and readie, that when occasion is to
take some of the wild kinde, the taking of those may
not offend the rest that remaine behinde. The plot
must be especially for the wilde kinde of Ducke and
Mallard



IN the casting of the Mote, the best earth must bee cast into the Plot, to raise it so, as the House may stand three or foure yards higher then the sides to the Moteward, that the water may descend; and for pleasure there may be some kind of Quick-wood set about it, whereby it may be kept Fort-like. The borders for pleasure may be set with Preuet, wheron many conceits may be fashioned, seeming as though the Fowle bred vnder them; but for profit with Goose-berry sets, which wil put forth and be greene timely in the ye are to shadow the Nests. The passages betweene the Nests, would be a yard broad at the least, and in the wast e places about the house, some fruit trees may be planted for profit. On the outside of the Mote for Fowle there must be a double Quick-wood set of Whitethorne, kept thicke in the bottome that the Fowle may not creepe through, to be kept battled, if the owner please. The Quitke wood to be set close to the side of the Bridge, and the Bridge to lie longer forth then the Hedge, by a yard and a halfe, so that vnder either side of the Bridge, there may be a little Doore to open and shut at pleasure, to the end the wild kinde after they be fourteene dayes old, may be let forth a nights to feede, and to come in a mornings (whereof they will not faile.) The tame kind must not be let forth, till they be past taking hurt by Vermine, and they to be let forth a mornings, and to come in a Euenings. For Pullen there needeth no fence at all on the outside: On the Bridge there must be a Doore, and so made as no Vermine may creepe in, either ouer or by it, and a Trap continually would be kept on the Bridge. On either side the Mote, there must be left a yard and a halfe, or rather two yards in the inside for the Fowle to sit on at pleasure, and for fishing the Mote, the Mote may be broder at the owners pleasure. In large Parkes or Pasture grounds, it were most profit to be both Fowle and Pullen, the Plats being as farre a sunder as may be.

Place this betweene Fol. 24. and 25.

Ma
ple
be
squ
br
to
th
fin
gr
th
an
to
th
ho
an

th
wi
at
C
br
H
th
lin
ple
a
Li
on
re
m
be
D

Mallard, which are best to be kept both for profite and pleasure in a piece of ground where water is, and may be got and kept all the yeare, of two and twenty yards square, moted about with a mote of a roode or poll of breadth, which will be twenty poll in cōpasse: it ought to be made sixe foote deepe in the middest and something shallower towards the sides, which will cost at five shillings a poll five pound. The leuellings of the ground, with quickset and workmanship, foure pound, the house being five yards square, and sixe foote high, and hauing a little chamber ouer it to keepe Oates in to feede them (the house it selfe being studded and thinly lathed two fingers betweene the lathes) which house cannot cost aboue eight pound, and the bridge and dore twenty shillings.

The plot being made, put into it about Christmas three score tame Duckes and twenty Mallards, which will cost about three and fifty shillings foure pence, or at Candlemas for want of Ducks, forty Hens and ten Cocks, to remaine till Ducke egges be gotten to breede on in the meane time: there are neyther the Hennes nor the Duckes, but their egges will be worth the corne, branne, and graines that the young Ducklings must be fed withall, till they can eate Oates. The plot being thus readie, and all things else, send one with a horse for egges in March into Cambridge shire, or Lincolne shire about Crowland, Leuerton by Boston, or thereabouts, into the Fennes, or into any other neerer place, where wilde Duckes egges are to be got for money, especially in the Fennes, if the people haue liberty to get them (for in the spring time when the wild Ducks lay, the poore people will goe with a dogge in-

to the Femmes, where their dogge will put vp the fowle out of their nests; and then if they finde any egges therein that be vnsetten, they will take most of them away with a ladle, or by some other meanes; so that they neither handle the egges that they leaue behinde, nor breath vpon them; and then will marke the place where the nest is, so as they may readily come to it, and once in a weeke will fetch all the egges that are laid in the meane time, and so make the Ducke (whose nature is to lay till her nest be full before she will sit) so poore as they may take her (which oftentimes the hungry inhabitants do.) The egges being thus got ready, when the keeper of them seeth the Henne or Ducke feather her nest, and beginneth to sit, then make vp the number in the nest twelue wild Ducke egges: and thus in two yeares the whole number of the wilde or tame may be bred in such sort, as they may be taken off at the owners pleasure, & a stocke of fourescore of the oldest to be left for breeding with twentie Mallards: which foure score old Duckes will breede and bring vp commonly euery one of them eight at the least, the whole number to be three hundred and twenty couple, worth to be sold eight pence the couple; which ariseth to the summe of tenne pound and a marke for their young ones. Then the egges that they will yearely lay, to be but worth fiftie three shillings and foure pence, at five a penie; and the fish that may be bred in the Mote yearly, to be worth thirteene shillings foure pence: Provided alwaies, that there be no Pikes bred in the Mote, for they will destroy the young fowle, but not the pul- len. The whole summe is fourteene pound: deduct out of the same five pound, to buy tenne quarters of

Oates yearly; which ten quarters will allow the fowles about a bushell and halfe a weeke, which is more then is needfull to bespent on them: for except it be in frost or snow, when the ground is couerd, or when they sit, and the young ones are not able to flie abroad, a very small quantity will serue to giue them euery morning a few, that euery one may get a douzen cornes to haunt them. As for their breed, being once well haunted, they will neuer away in the day, if they may be in quiet, but altogether in the night: by which means they are safe from Vermine, and they will continue there especially in breeding time. For experience teacheth all men to know, that all things that hath life, lo-ueth best the place wherein it was bred, finding there their best reliefe and rest; as appeareth, that all the Winter (till breeding time) there are hardly one couple of Duckes and Mallards to be seene in the Fennes, but abundance in Sommer time, where they remaine vntill about Michaelmas, and then they goe away againe. Then further allow forty six shilling eight pence to the keepers, and towards the keeping of the hedge, the remainder is cleere / all charges defraied / sixe pound thirteene shillings and foure pence. Thus is the profe made betweene the Pigeons and the wild fowle, the one offensiue; the other not.

The plot for rame will not cost so much by the charge of the house; for being rame, they may be taken at pleasure.

The pullen will yelde a greater profite: for there may be likewise kept at a like plot, fourescore Hennes, and twenty Cocks: admit euery Henne to breede yearly but eight Chickens, (though it will be gran-

28 *The Commons complaint:*

ted they will breed twice in euery yeare , and at each time eight at the least) their number is three hundred and twentie couple, whereof eight score couple rated to be sold being Chickens at six pence the couple, make foure pound. Foure score couple of Hennes at twelue pence the couple, comes to foure pound, and foure score couple of Capons at two shilling the couple, comes to eight pound. The egges cannot be lesse worth then eight pound at five a penny. And the fish that may be bred yearly in the Mote , will yeeld thirteene shilling foure pence. The totall is twenty foure pound, thirteene shillings and foure pence: out of which deduct thirteene pound, to buy twenty six quarters of Oates, whereby they may be allowed one weeke with another throughout the yeare, foure bushels. Allow further yearly foure pound to the keeper to the pullen, and the maintaining of the plot, although it be supposed, that euery one that will be at the charge of any of these plots, keepeth one that tendeth his pullen that he hath already, so that the charge hereof will be so much the lesse. The house for pullen will cost about forty shillings more then a house for fowle, in respect that although the house may be two yards narrower, yet it must be three yards longer, with poles in it, for the pullen to sit vpon. As for neasts they shall need none in the house, but in borders where they will take more delight to breed in then a house, and be freer from diseases, by reason of the ayre, and therefore it shall not be necessary to haue a Chamber in that house, because the Keeper may bring the Oates at any time when he commeth to them. But the reason why a chamber is conuenient in the house, wherin the soule must

must be vsed to feed is especially for the Keeper to stay priuately in, to take some of the fowle at pleasure, without offending the rest. Thus all charges to the vttermost being set downe, the remainder is seuen pound, thirteene shillings, and foure pence by the yeare *de claro* at the least, at a very cheape rate, The charge of the plot is vnder three yeares purchase for the pullen, and three yeares purchase for Duckes and Mallards. As for the manner of breeding of pullen and tame fowle, it is needlesse to set downe; only thus much: For the tame, their charge will bee as little or lesse then the wilde, if they beebred in large pastures where they may neither doe hurt to corne or meadow ground, which the wilde will neuer doe. The reason is, the wilde keepe in the water all the day, and feed altogether in the night, and dare not come neere corne: and their corne must bee giuen them euery morning a little, to draw them to their breeding place in the day; whither they will not faile to come, being there bred and fed. It shall not bee needfull to bestow much corne vpon the tame, but onely at their first being put into the plot, where they must be kept in for three weekes or a moneth: in which time being fed euery euening, they will likewise so know their being, that thither they will come in the night, and feed abroad all day, especially if they find that they sit quiet in the night; such is the difference of their kindes, the one feedeth by day, and the other by night. Now it remaineth to know how the wilde must bee bred when they haue chosen their neasts, which shall appeare in the Plot hereafter set downe.

After the fowle begin to lay once a weeke, their Keeper may come to their neasts when the fowles are off,
which

which will bee towarde night; and for that purpose bring with them an Iron ladle, with a handle halfe a yard long at the least, wherewith they may reach into the neasts of the fowle, and from thence take some of the eldest laid egges, as neere as they can gesse, leauing not about or vnder two or three, taking great heede that they neither handle them, nor breath vpon them, for their nature is to finde that fault, and then they will forsake their neasts. Thus may the egges for the more profit bee taken from them, so long as in discretion shall be thought fit, which commonly will bee about some tenne weeks, ere that they be perceiued to feather their nest: and bee sure in the meane time to keepe some egges, that haue beene neither handled nor breathed on: and if there want egges in any of the neasts, when it is perceiued that they sit, then with the ladle put in more and make the number twelue at the least. The manner how to take them is thus.

The house being made, as before is set downe, the doore thereof must bee thus made: A light frame of Wood as can bee made, to bee as broad and so long as the doore-stead is, being for the purpose a yard or thereabout, for that commonly is the breadth of Canuis or haire cloth. Then take (for the better lasting) so much haire cloth as the doore is of heighth, and make it fast to the frame of Wood as a doore, which must bee hanged like a shoppe window at the toppe of the doore-stead, to bee drawne vp by a cord and a pulley, and so to stand. In the meane time the fowle must bee fed to bee fedde in the house, which by little and little they will easily bee brought vnto, if they bee usually

usually fedde there, and some tame ones kept among them for that purpose, which for sundrie causes I hold the fitter to breed on; especially they being not able to flie, must of necessity stay there, which will make the Duckes to resort thither for their mates: and some doe hold, that the nature of the wilde Mallard is to sucke the egges if hee finde them: being thus vsed to haue their corne in the house, which they may be brought vnto, whereof I could giue many instances, but two may serue for breuitie: one at Saint *James* Parke, the other from *Standish* hall, the house from whence I descended, where wilde Duckes did breed about a More, which at the first were bred vnder a Hen, and both those and the breed of them, for many yeares continued so tame by vse, as they would haue followed through the Court belonging to the house into the hall, and so wilde, as vpon any offence they would haue flowne to the riuer or ponds thereabout; and being flowne at, or otherwise there stirred, would haue returned home.

The fowle being thus wonted to the house, the Keeper being determined to take any of them, may goe into the house at pleasure, and call them thither, according to his wonted manner; the corne being strewed in the house, the Keeper may goe vp into the chamber, and there stay with the cord of the doore in his hand, as priuately as hee can, and by degrees let the doore downe, and when hee perceiueth that most of the fowle are gone forth, then may hee let the doore close downe, and so take them as quietly as may bee, and no whit offend the rest. If all Noblemen and others of the better sort would put this in execution

execution in Forrests, Chases, Parkes, great Pastures, and Commons, it would not only bee very beneficiall for themselves in their house-keeping, but would likewise ease the extreme dearth of victualls, to the easing of this grievance.

Obiections against breeding of Fowle.

THat such abundance of fowle by this meanes may be bred, that thereby corne may be made deare. Secondly, that they will destroy the increase of fish. Thirdly, that they will so soile the ground where they are bred, that the cattell will not eate the grasse.

The answer to this Obiection.

First, as touching the dearth of corne that by them may grow, that shall be answered hereafter in place for that purpose, and how more corne may bee saued by the tenth part then they can spend, which is yearly destroyed by Vermine.

Secondly, that they doe not destroy or hinder the breede of fish, as it doth appeare, especially in the Fennes of the Ile of Ely, where there is greater store of fish, then there is in any place of England, except it bee in such like Fennie grounds: in which Ile there is more Fowle then there is in all England besides, especially in spawning time, at which time they may doe most hurt, but at other times they can doe none: for after there is life in the fish, no swimming Fowle can hurt them. And for the better satisfaction of all
men

The Commons complaint. 3

men in this point, let any man call to remembrance, whether euer hee saw or heard of a fish taken out of a wilde Mallards crop.

Thirdly, as touching their foyling of the ground, an instance may bee taken by all fennish Commons where they haunt, and by all other Commons where great store of Geese are bred and kept, where is to bee seene the foile of the Geese to be thicke on the ground (and yet the cattell feeding among it) that in common reason they cannot but gather some of it into their mouths: though the foyle of Geese is holden the most dangerous foile of all other fowle, yet did I neuer heare any complaine of any losse taken either by their foile or feathers, although in the moulting time, the Commons will seeme as it were strowed with feathers. And it is holden by many good husbands, that Fowles, especially Duckes and Mallards, doe much good to ground and cattell, especially to Deere and Sheepe, namely, by gathering vp the wormes that so sprout vppe the earth in the night, which earth in grounds that are eaten bare is beaten abroad with euery showre of raine vpon the short grasse, which commonly is the sweetest, whereon the Deere and Sheepe desire most to feede; and thereby gather vp the earth that is so beaten on the grasse by the raine, which earth is holden by most skilfull men in sheepe, to bee the principall cause of the rot: which the better may bee conceiued; for as much as experience hath manifested, that seldome either Sheepe or Deere rot in grounds deepe of grasse. Also Wormes liue by the fat of the earth, and decay the strength thereof, (as all the great Gardiners doe affirme) which Fowle and Pul-

len will destroye, especially wilde Ducke and Mallard, in respect that they will altogether feede by night on the barest grounds, and vpon Wormes most of all.

The second remedie for the dearth of Victualls by planting of fruit.

FOr as much as by the experience that is taken out of most of the Countreies of this Kingdome, especially out of some parts of Worcester shire, Gloucester shire and Hereford shire, where it is generally affirmed, that there bee full dry men, that raise to their purses yearly two hundred pounds, by fruit trees growing in their hedges and fields, ouer and besides what hee spendeth in his house in Syder and Perrie: and that there are some Parsons that haue thirtie or fortie hogesheads in a yeare for Tithes. And further it appeareth, that in most Townes of this Kingdome, there haue beene prouident husbands that haue planted Orchards, which in effect are now decayed, which haue not onely beene very beneficiall to themselves, but also to the Common-wealth, and therebee yet some few that doe plant, some an acre of ground, which is yearly worth fise pound at the least in fruit. In respect whereof, and for other good considerations, if it were provided (in regard the like profit may bee yearly raised in the greater part of this Kingdome, to the great profit of the Planters, and benefit to the Common wealth, which will likewise bee a speciall meanes to disburthen vs of the greatest part of this grieuance, for that thereby the extreame price of
 Victualls

Viſuals will bee greatly eaſed,) That there may bee a certaine number of fruit-trees planted in all the Hedges, as of Apples, Wardens, and Peares, and moſt of all the Apples, where VVhite-thorne and Crabbe-trees doe or may hereafter grow being planted, viz. for euery Acre of enclosed ground ſoure trees, which can no way bee hurtfull, or hinder any other profit whatſoeuer that may bee raiſed out of Hedges- The fruit that by this meanes may be raiſed yearly, cannot bee leſſe worth (if all were enclosure ground) then twelue hundred thouſand pounds, if the fruit were ſold for ſix pence a buſhell.

And this I may proue two ſeueral waies, Firſt, by experience taken from Crabs, it is knowne to all Huſwies that a buſhell of Crabs will make two gallons and a halfe of Veriuiſe, and ſo much ſome of the beſt Chandlers in London haue affirmed to mee. I haue alſo enquired of ſome of the better ſort inhabiting in the Countries before recited, as I haue trauelled through thoſe Countries for this purpoſe for my better experience, how much Sider a buſhell of Apples will yeeld, or a buſhell of Peares of Perrie; whoſe answers for the moſt part were, that a buſhell of ordinarie Apples, would at the firſt preſſe yeeld two gallons and a halfe; and by putting a gallon of faire water into the Apples ſo preſſed, and letting it ſtand ſome twelue houres, ſometimes ſtirring them, and then preſſe them againe, would yeeld another gallon, but not ſo good, nor ſo long laſting as is at the firſt.

The ſecond is this, that in a buſhel there is about two hundred of the greateſt Pipins, let ſome of them to the number of twentie be baked in a Pot for the purpoſe,

or take twentie of them and roste; and that man will be holden for a monster, that can eate out so many at one meale, which may bee afforded for a pennie, and the surplusage being fourescore will recompence the labour that is taken about them. By either of these meanes I hope it will be allowed, that of themselves they are worth the rate before set downe, and being baked in paste, a good & profitable vse is made of them in many mens houses, by sauing other Viſtuals; and when it pleaseth God to blesse those few fruit-trees that are in this Kingdome, it will something abate the extreme prices of Viſtuals. This present yeare may bee an instance, and all Drouers of cattell will affirme, that they haue felt the smart of the plentie of fruit, and the inhabitants of the Citie of London will acknowledge, that the fruit that commeth thither, easeth something the prices of Viſtuals.

The greatest hinderance which may bee to these good workes of planting fruit, and wood, will be confessed of most men by their experience, who haue in their times scene many men begin to plant Orchards, and set quick wood; to the end to haue hedges in many places, especially by high waies for the sauing of corne and at the first will make some prouision for the preserving of the same, which afterwards some, by couering the grasse growing in the Orchard, putteth some kinde of cattell therein which breaketh & spoileth the grafts: others by want of maintaining the fences, whereby their expectation, cost and labour is lost: and so in quick wood after a great cost in planting, for a little more cost in maintaining, al is trodden downe and lost: in like sort much good spring wood is spoiled by cattell
by

The Commons complaint. 37

by want of fencing. Thus either by couetousnesse, nigardnesse, or negligence, many good actions are overthrowne, to the losse both of the owner and Commonwealth. My counsell heerein is to begin well, and to perseuere therein accordingly vnto the end.

Obiections against planting of fruit.

First, that if they be planted in hedges, they will be stollen, and hedges broken for them.

Secondly, that such plenty of fruit would make corne ouer cheape for the Farmour.

Thirdly, that if the hedges were so thicke planted with trees, in closes or fields, that are not aboue sixe Acres, they will be very hurtfull; for that if such closes or fields shall happen to be sowne with corne or mowne for hay, the trees will so keepe off the Sun and wind, that in wet haruests it wil greatly hinder the drying of hay and corne.

Fourthly, that his land is his owne, and he will not be constrained to vse it otherwise then he listeth, and that such as haue a thousand acres or more in occupation, may haue so much fruit as he shall not know what to do with it.

The answer to these obiections.

THe first I grant in part, that fruit being planted but in particular may be stollen, and little good may grow thereby, but being generally planted as is required, what cause may any charitable man haue to complaine? or what man complaineth in any

of the countries before recited (from whence example for this purpose is taken) of stealing his fruit where the hedges are as thicke with fruit trees, and other trees as is required? It is scarcity that causeth stealing, but in those countries the trees in the hedges hang as commonly full of fruit on the high waies side as on the other, and the hedges of fields, and closes in those countries, and in some other countries are as thicke of fruit trees, and other trees as are required, and yet notwithstanding such as haue Corne or Hay in little closes make shift to get it drie. Thus the first and third is answered.

What charity is in the fourth, I referre to the censure of the indifferent Reader. For it is in reason to be conceiued that hardly halfe of the people of the Kingdome hath not grounds to plant on, but would buy them at the rate set downe, being cheaper then any other victuals, and by the plenty of fruit such store of Syder may be made and kept without losse, vntill it may happen that a deare yeare of Corne may come, which then may be spent in drinke, and the Barly may be converted to bread corne, and by this meanes corne may alwaies be sold at reasonable prices in this land. This may be proued by the best Merchants who will affirme that Syder will keepe seuen yeares. And by this meanes such store of Corne and Syder, may alwaies be in the Realme, that treasure may be brought into the land for Corne, Syder, and many commodities that may be spared, whereby the kingdome may be greatly enriched, and the customes increased to the good of the king.

The second is idle: for what man of experience know.

knoweth not but the Farmour that liueth by tillage, may either by feeding of beefes, muttons, hogs, pul- len, and many other things that may be fed or bred by corne, make at all times (if he thinke corne too chepe in the market) by these meanes a sufficient price of his corne both for the buyer and seller. Moreouer, much more ground may be conuerted to the feeding and breeding of cattell and to dairies, all which is (as the world now goeth) very cōuenient, the rather for that by experience it hath beene continually seene, that wher- as corne is deere one yeare in seuen, yet for other five or sixe yeares, it is at a more reasonable rate then other vi- ctuals, which yearely rise in price, and seldome or re- uer abate. And further if corne be very cheape, it may be transported (as it hath beene) with Perry and Syder into other countries, so that if the Farmours should loose something in the prices of their corne, yet they shall gaine much more in their house-keeping and o- ther necessities.

And whereas it may seeme distastfull to some to plant their fruit trees in the hedges; admit that there should be an Acre inclosed, wherein may be planted fourescore fruit trees, and euery tree may haue an ele- uen yards roome to grow on, whereby the ground may take no hurt by weeds, which after tenne yeares will yeeld one yeare with another, and one tree with a- nother a bushell of fruit, rated as before at sixe pence the bushell, this profit will amount to forty shillings the Acre at that rate. Admit further, that the charge of inclosing of this Acre round about, being eight Rood of breadth, and twenty in length, should cost foure- teen pence a rood, to haue a good ditch double or treble
set

set with quicke Thornes, and hedged round about on the outside of the Ditch, which hedge will last well three yeares: at the two yeares end towards the latter end of March, cut the quicke wood vpward with a knife close by the ground, and weed the grasse cleane vp from about the rootes, the wood of the old hedge will pay for the labour, & then the first charge is foure pound and foure shillings at the three yeares end. Then hedge it new againe, which may cost thirtie and sixe shillings: that hedge will last well till the quicke wood be past taking hurt, for that in those three yeares after it is cut, it will grow higher then it would doe in tenne yeares being not cut, and so thicke, that nothing can get through it. In the meane time whilest the Fence is in growing, if there be strewed in a Nursery the kernels of a hundred Apples, or kernels of Crabbes, or set when (or before) the quicke wood is set, there will be more sets then that ground requireth, which being well preserued, will be bigge enough in three or foure yeares to graft vpon. The charge being sixe pound, is but three yeares purchase.

For destroying of Vermine.

THe great deuourers of corne, of these kindes, are Rookes, Crowes, and Sparrowes, the number wherof is infinite, and so is the quantiry of corne which they destroy yearly. They also greatly hinder the increafe of corne, which when they cannot finde it lying about the ground, they scratch it vp with their feete, or picke it vp with their Bills (Blades, and Rootes) and

The Commons complaint. †1

and when corne is eared, then if it happen to be laid, both Rookes and Pigeons light vpon it, and so spoyle it, that if it were worth forty shillings an Acre before, in one weeke they will make it not worth ten shillings the Acre. One kind of these Crows liue much vpon Chickens and Fowle, and by their eggs, and kill young Lambes, and do much hurt besides. There are also many other flying vermine that destroy Phelants, Partridges, Fowle, Pullen and young Rabbets, which are Buzzards, Kites, Ringtailes, and Pyes, all which or the most part of them may easly be destroyed in three years, only by the pulling downe of their nests in breeding time, not suffering any of them to breed, euery man to vnder take for his owne ground vpon a penalty, to the vse of the poore of the Parish. Two other great spoilers of fowle, are the shooting in Peeeces, and water Dogs, the one galleth more then they kill and get, that are lost, so doe Dogs when the Fowle are yong, and in moulting time. And much Lead and Poulder might be saued, by reason that euery man may haue Hawkes meate by his Fowle and Pullen.

OBJECTIONS.

THat is true that is alledged, that the Vermine before mentioned are as hurtfull to the Commonwealth as is alledged, and that many yeares since by Act of Parliament there was a speciall law made for the generall destroying of all kind of Vermine that could be thought vpon, as Foxes, Badgers, Polecats, wild Cats, Stotes, and all other whatsoever which was as much as then was thought conuenient.

H

THE

THE ANSWER.

IT appeareth that such an Act was made for the destroying of Vermine afore said, and of other Vermine, but so small an allowance was made that no man made account thereof: wherefore by allowing a good proportion for this businesse, they may be soone destroyed, and the charge soone ended, and then all Vermine being destroyed, and Pigeon-houfes suppressed (excepting onely such as are allowed by the common lawes of this kingdome) it cannot be imagined that corne or any thing else for the reliefe of man can be deare in this land, without God doe altogether take away his blessings.

Of Wood.

FIRST it is sufficiently proued, that Wood being generally planted for euery Acre of this Kingdome, being at least foure and twenty millions of acres, that wood land may be planted in; the worth thereof ariseth to fourteene hundred thousand pounds by the yeare: admit that the fourth part of the Kingdome be already replenished, yet the gaine by fire-wood and timber of the other three parts will arise to eighteene hundred thousand pounds. The timber and fire-wood that shall be planted in pasture ground, as afore said, will be clearly gained by the better breeding & feeding of the number of cattell more than may be bred by the pasture and straw, that may be saved, which is now spoiled and burnt, the worth of cattell

so

so bred, may be two hundred thousand pound yearly at the least. All which may be effected with lesse then three yeares purchase in pasture and meadow grounds, and the whole charge of planting wood in barren ground may bee recouered in lesse then three yeares, with ten pound gain, as it is proued; and after ten yeares the soile may be improued from twelue pence an acre yearly to ten shillings an acre yearly. The fire-wood of two thousand trees being well husbanded, will bee worth six pence a tree at euery eight yeares end, which riseth to fiftie pounds. The ground is improued tenne pound yearly: and the fourescore trees remaining wil be better worth then forty pounds after threescore yeares, and by the fruit after tenne yeares forty shillings a yeare.

Of fruit.

IT is also proued that fruit-trees may bee planted in twelue millions of acres at the least in this Kingdome, which being rated at two shillings an acre, six pence a tree, the value whereof commeth to twelue hundred thousand pounds yearly; out of which being deducted for the fruit alreadie planted in this Kingdom two hundred thousand pounds, yet there remaineth one million of pounds gained yearly: the fruit trees which may be planted in Orchards, may bee gained in three yeares, and in hedge-rows in one yeare.

Of Fowle and Pullen.

AS concerning the breeding of Fowle and Pullen, it is likewise proued, that there may be well bred so many as will be worth five hundred thousand pounds yearly in this Kingdome, after the rate of eight pence the couple one with another, and that prouision being made for the destroying of vermine, there will bee fowles enow soone bred in this Realme, and that if every owner of Pigeons should yearly breed so many fowles or pullen, as they keepe olde Pigeons, and every man that hath grounds conuenient would make plots to breed on as is aforesaid, it would greatly ease the dearth of victuals, the charge whereof may be recouered in three yeares. For the better vnderstanding how the profits may arise, it is to bee noted, that it appeareth by the general map of this kingdome, that it containeth twentie nine millions five hundred sixtie eight thousand acres; out of which number deducting five millions, and the odde thousands of acres for high waies, wilde lying grounds and waits not fit for planting, there remaineth foure and twentie millions, which being rated at a pennie an acre, amounteth to an hundred thousand pounds.

Suppressing of Pigeon-houses, and destroying of Vermine.

AND it is likewise proued, that by suppressing halfe the Pigeon houses of this Realme, and of Pigeons kept ouer gates, chambers, and other places.

places for that purpose, there may bee yearly saued so much corne as is worth two millions of pounds at the least, which they destroy and spoile : which may be effected without charge : and that by the destroying of feathered fowles, which in like sort destroy & deuoure corne, and hinder the increase of the same, there may bee saued as much corne yearly in this Realme, as is worth three millions of pounds. By the destroying of the before recited vermin there may be saued in fowles and pullen and egges, which they destroy yearly, the worth of fise thousand pound at the least, besides yong Fawnes, Lambes, Rabbits, and many other things by them destroyed. I can make prooffe where there were within this three yeares, seuen dozen couple of Rabbits found on a heape, carried together in lesse time then a moneth by a Store. Also by a generall destroying of Rats and Mice, there may bee saued yearly in bread and cheefe, corne, and other thinges which they deuoure and destroy, foure hundred thousand pound at the least. I haue known some on man loose forty pound in a yeare by keeping corne hoping for dearth, by Mice and Rats (too many such there be) which twenty shillings in time bestowed would haue saued. All, or the most part of which vermine may bee destroyed with lesse cost then the losse which is sustained by them in one halfe yeare, by allowing a good proportion to euery man that destroyeth them, as well yong and olde, as their egges and neasts : which would incourage seruants and poore men to be industrious, in destroying the said vermine, and so the worke would soone be finished, and the charge ended : for money maketh men to labour.

Summe, nine millions, two hundred thousand pound saued and gained by this proiect yearely to the performers, besides the good that may grow thereby to the Common-wealth.

That it might be provided that no Tenant should be damnified by their Land-lords, by letting any of their Farmes, whereupon they haue planted wood or fruit, before they haue receiued sufficient profit of their labour, without sufficient recompence for their charge.

(*)

FINIS.



